



# Secretary's Directive

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

DIRECTIVE NO.: 01-13

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2001

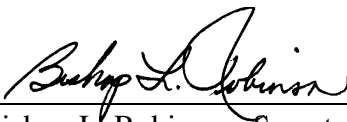
TO: Rudy Adams  
Walter Wirsching  
Superintendent, Thomas J.S. Waxters  
Superintendent, Cheltenham Youth Facility  
Superintendent, Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center  
Superintendent, J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility  
Area Directors

In accordance with the conditions and provisions of the DJJ/DHMH Mental Health Substance Abuse Action Plan (FY 2001-02), *Expand Mental Health in Detention Facilities*, I am directing staff to gather the following information:

1. **Number of juveniles screened at each facility**
2. **Number of juveniles assessed at each facility**
3. **Number of juveniles receiving treatment at each facility**
4. **The type of treatment administered at each facility**
5. **Number of juveniles referred/linked to community-based providers from each facility**

This information and data will be gathered and maintained on a monthly basis and submitted to Walter Wirsching, Assistant Secretary of Admissions, and copied to the Secretary of the Department and Assistant Secretary of Residential Services. This monthly reporting procedure will coincide with the implementation of the expansion of the "Mental Health in Detention Facilities State Challenge Pilot Project," dated January 1, 2001.

This Directive is effective March 16, 2001 and remains in effect until rescinded.

  
Bishop L. Robinson, Secretary



**DJJ/DHMH Mental Health/Substance Abuse Action Plan**  
**FY 2001-02**  
**November 13, 2000**

**Summary:** This Action Plan is the precursor to a three year action plan to integrate mental health and substance abuse services into every phase of the juvenile justice system. The plan has six components: (1) Develop a 3 year plan for enhanced mental health and substance abuse treatment throughout DJJ System; (2) Expand Mental Health in Detention Facilities; (3) Fully Implement HB 692; (4) Implement Mental Health Component of Aftercare Initiative; (5) Develop and Implement a Standard Screening and Assessment Tool; and (6) Expand Community Based Services to Prevent and Reduce Juvenile Crime. These immediate steps will continue to improve treatment and service delivery to juveniles in the juvenile justice system. These specific initiatives are part of a larger effort to improve community-based services for targeted neighborhoods throughout the State.

**1. Develop a 3 year plan for enhanced mental health and substance abuse treatment throughout DJJ System**

**Description:** Significant process has been made to develop a long-range plan for providing mental health services in DJJ facilities. Both DJJ and DHMH have agreed to build upon current plans to create a comprehensive three-year plan to improve the delivery of treatment to juveniles throughout the entire juvenile justice system. Most of the focus will be on enhancing links with and increasing the capacity of community-based providers. This plan will synthesize the current facility plan as well as DJJ's admissions reform efforts. This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and revisions will be made as appropriate.

**Budget:** N/A

**Responsibility:** Oscar Morgan, DHMH; Walt Wirsching, DJJ; Stephen Amos, GOCCP

**Timeline:** Complete 3 year plan by July 1, 2001, for FY 2003 budget cycle

**Progress Measures:** Has the plan been completed and approved by Secretaries of DJJ and DHMH?  
Have necessary budget items been added to DJJ and DHMH budgets for FY 2003 and planned for FY 2004-5?

**2. Expand Mental Health in Detention Facilities**

**Description:** Expansion of State Challenge Grant pilot to additional detention facilities. Initiative places a mental health professional in detention centers to screen all youth who stay longer than 24 hours. Youth indicating a need will receive a full assessment and preliminary treatment or treatment readiness. The mental health worker in collaboration with DJJ case manager will link juveniles

in need of service with community-based treatment providers once they leave detention. These screenings and assessments will be used to develop individual service plans (identifying youth that require in-home or residential programs) to be presented to the courts to assist them in disposition decision. (Will provide services to J. DeWeese Carter Center, Cheltenham Youth Facility, Thomas J.S. Waxter Center, and Alfred D. Noyes Center).

**Budget:** \$1.2 million (\$600,000 from MHA and \$600,000 from JJAC)  
**Responsibility:** Oscar Morgan, DHMH; Walt Wirsching, DJJ; Stephen Amos, GOCCP  
**Timeline:** Expanded pilot will begin January 1, 2001  
**Progress Measures:** Number of juveniles screened at each facility  
 Number of juveniles assessed in each facility  
 Number of juveniles receiving treatment in each facility  
 What was the type of treatment?  
 Number of juveniles referred/linked to community-based providers from each facility

### **3. Fully Implement HB 692**

**Description:** In 1999, HB 692 passed concerning Mental Health and Substance Abuse Screening and Assessment. The bill requires DJJ staff to refer juveniles and their guardians for mental health and substance abuse screenings. The law requires that within 15 days of the referral, DJJ workers must document whether or not a guardian made an appointment for a screening. The law also states that if the screening indicates a problem, the clinician must conduct a comprehensive mental health or substance abuse assessment of the juvenile no later than five working days after the screening.

**Budget:** Existing funds  
**Responsibility:** Oscar Morgan, DHMH; Walt Wirsching, DJJ  
**Timeline:** Completed by January 1, 2001  
**Progress Measures:** Have joint DJJ/DHMH regulations been adopted?  
 Have brochures been produced? Are they being distributed at intake?  
 Have all intake workers been trained?  
 How many parents/guardians made appointments for screenings?

### **4. Implement Mental Health Component of Aftercare Initiative**

**Description:** Master's Level mental health professionals will be part of new Aftercare Wrap Teams. There will be one mental health worker assigned to every two aftercare teams in neighborhoods throughout the State.

**Budget:** \$1.5 million through MD Partnership Request for FY 2002. From January 1, 2001-June 30, 2001, plan to use \$200,000 from JJAB to fund services.

**Lead Responsibility:** Oscar Morgan, DHMH, Walt Wirsching, DJJ

**Timeline:** Program begins January 1, 2001

**Progress Measures:** Number of aftercare teams with mental health professional assigned to it/all aftercare teams.  
 Number of juveniles screened.  
 Number of juveniles assessed.  
 Number of juveniles receiving treatment and type of treatment provided  
 Number of families of juveniles on aftercare receiving treatment  
 Type of treatment provided to the families  
 Number of juveniles returned to DJJ supervision as a result of a new offense  
 Number of aftercare violators.  
 Number of absconders.  
 Number of warrants.

## **5. Develop and Implement a Standard Screening and Assessment Tool**

**Description:** There is a need to standardize screening and assessment in the juvenile justice system. Johns Hopkins University has agreed to work with the State to improve various tools for DJJ's entire population.

**Budget:** Part of \$1.2 million for detention/mental health project

**Responsibility:** Oscar Morgan, DHMH; Walt Wirsching, DJJ; Stephen Amos, GOCCP

**Timeline:** Tool and Training completed by March, 2001

**Progress Measures:** Have the tools been developed? Have the tools been validated?  
 Percentages of intake workers trained concerning screening tools?  
 Have clinicians received training concerning how to administer the tools?  
 Number of juveniles receiving assessments.  
 Number of juvenile referred for treatment.  
 Number of juveniles eligible for Medicaid.  
 Number of juveniles with private insurance.

## **6. Community Based Services To Prevent and Reduce Juvenile Crime**

**Description:** In neighborhoods where juvenile crime and related risk factors are concentrated, community teams involving agency personnel, community institutions and organizations with experience working with juveniles will design community juvenile intervention strategies tailored to the risk factors and resources of the particular neighborhood. This is part of a larger Neighborhood Intervention

for your and families that will empower neighborhoods to develop a continuum of services from prevention through aftercare.

**Budget:** \$3.5 million  
**Responsibility:** Walt Wirsching, DJJ; Sheila Maynor, DJJ  
**Timeline:** Full implementation July 1, 2001  
**Progress Measures:** Measure progress measures developed for each individual neighborhood strategy

**Our agencies have approved this action plan for FY 2001-2002. Our staff is committed to develop and implement these six strategies/initiatives according to the timelines outlined.**

 11/15/00  
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Bishop L. Robinson, Secretary, DJJ

/S/ 11/15/00  
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Georges Benjamin, Secretary, DHMH

